

EUROCAP PROGRAM-EBRE STATION

5th Interim Report

(September 1994 - February 1995)

by

LUIS F. ALBERCA

UNITED STATES ARMY
EUROPEAN RESEARCH OFFICE OF THE US ARMY
LONDON, ENGLAND

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OBSERVATORI DE L'EBRE
43520 ROQUETES (TARRAGONA)
SPAIN



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SOUNDING ACTIVITY

The ARTIST output of hourly vertical incidence ionograms obtained at Ebre Observatory, have been regularly sent to Fort Monmoth in floppy 5 1/4" HD diskettes for the period September 1994 - February 1995.

An oblique sounding campaign between Ebre and Dourbes stations took place from September 26 to October 24, 1994. The rate of oblique sounding was two ionograms per hour and it was limited to day-time. The campaign was a success and a series of more than 390 valid ionograms were obtained. A technique, similar to the precision group height determination, that gives a range accuracy of 2 km, was used for the campaign. This increase of the accuracy is important because the method of ionogram inversion used (Kashennikov) highly depends on this measurement.

DATA AND EQUIPMENT RECONDITIONING

A powerfull UPS (Uninterrupted Power System) has been installed in the digisonde with an autonomy of more than 8 hours. This allows to maintain the digisonde working, disconnected from the mains, during the thunderstorms. It will be also useful to avoid sounding interruptions during power failures.

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We are preparing a compact-disk with all the ARTIST output ionograms of the digisonde from its installation to 1995. The data will be compressed and the disk will contain a small program to visualize the ionograms. The disk will contain also the reduced data of the ionograms obtained with the old ionosonde corresponding to several years.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Four papers were presented, by people of the Observatory, at the PRIME workshop held at El Arenosillo on 5 - 9 September 1994. It was the last workshop of the PRIME project. On February 8 - 10 we participate in the PRIME Management Committee meeting held at Rome. A first version of the final computer program was presented as well as the users book. Several modifications were proposed. The preparation of the "Final Report" and the arrangements for its presentation were also discussed. It will take place in Abingdon (UK) on September 1995.

The proposed new COST project has already been approved by the COST Authorities and soon will be opened for the ambassadors signature. It is the COST 251 and its title Improved Quality of Service in Ionospheric Telecommunication Systems Planning and Operation (IITS). We hope that the Spanish Authorities decide to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.